(c) Filling up of the vacancies is an ongoing process. KVS have already completed recruitment process based on written examinations and interviews for direct recruitment and vacancies are being filled up. DPCs are also held regularly to fill up the posts by promotion. Pending the posting of regular incumbents, the Vidyalayas have the instructions to fill up the vacant posts through contractual appointments so that the studies of children do not suffer for want of teachers.

Foreign investment in university sector

2819. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to commence private universities;

(b) if so, the details of Government's decision in this regard;

(c) whether Government would consider to admit foreign investment in the university sector;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether Government have taken decision on implementation of the Ambani-Birla Commission Report?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The promotion of higher education, given the size of the country and the population to be covered, necessarily involves partnership between the public and private sectors. Community participation through deemed to be university route has already been included in the guidelines of the University Grants Commission. Promotion of Indian education abroad and its counterpart—the regulation of foreign education in India, are also now matters which the Government has been seized of.

(e) The Government has not taken a decision on Ambani-Birla Report.

Allocation of funds for education

2820. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total allocation by the Union and State Governments for education has declined from 4.34 per cent of the GDP in 1990-91 to 3.35 in 1997-98;

(b) if so, whether poor allocation of funds has resulted in great shortage of teachers, especially in primary schools, which is the starting point of all progress, which significantly contributes towards poverty alleviation; and

(c) what steps Government propose to adopt so as to fulfil the constitutional obligation of providing free and compulsory education for all children between the age of 6 and 14?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The expenditure on education by the Central and State Governments as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 4.01 during 1990-91 in 3.49 in 1997-98. According to the Sixth All India Educational Survey (1993), 20.12 per cent primary schools in the country were having only one teacher and 41.92 per cent had only two teachers. Government launched a number of schemes like Operation Blackboard, District Primary Education Programme and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which *inter alia* provide assistance to State Governments for appointment of additional teachers in primary schools. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is also a holistic step to achieve the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) through a time bound, integrated approach in partnership with States and local bodies and the community. It aims to provide relevant and quality elementary education to all children in the 6-14 age group by 2010 with a special focus on educational needs of girls, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other children in difficult circumstances.

Private technical university in Chhattisgarh

2821. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to establish the first private university of India in Chhattisgarh, for providing technical education;

(b) whether the UGC is in favour of such private universities in the country; and

(c) what are the implications and advantges of such private universities?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.